



## **Information for Victims of False Identification**

NOTE: *Employees of the City Attorney cannot discuss your case, nor can they investigate the case on your behalf.*

If another person used your name, and as a result, you face criminal or traffic charges in Seattle Municipal Court, please take the following action:

1. If you been assigned a court date, you must appear, unless the court tells you that the error has been corrected. If you fail to appear, a warrant may be issued. The City Prosecutor cannot appear on your behalf. It is your obligation to appear and help correct the matter. If you want to be represented by an attorney and cannot afford one, you should immediately contact the Seattle Municipal Court – Indigent Defense Services (Seattle Municipal Court – 1<sup>st</sup> floor – Window 11, 600 Fifth Avenue at 5<sup>th</sup> and Cherry or telephone 206-615-0792).
2. When you go to court, or before if at all possible, take the attached form and give it to the public defender or prosecutor. Ask your attorney to show you complete criminal and traffic histories so that you may see if there are other fraudulent charges against you. It is up to you or your attorney to present adequate documentation to support your claim. The City Prosecutor's Office cannot assemble your documentation for you, or investigate your claim beyond reviewing documentation which you provide.
  - a. If the person who used your name was booked into jail, often there will be a booking photo. Ask your attorney to request a copy in advance of the hearing, and bring a piece of signed photo identification to court with you.
  - b. You should bring to court a piece of signed photo identification such as a valid driver's license.
3. If you do not have a court date, or it is more than 30 days in the future, give the attached form to:

Seattle City Attorney's Office  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 5350  
P.O. Box 94667  
Seattle, WA 98124-4667

If your information is sufficient, we will ask the court to dismiss the case and notify you. However, if you do not hear from us, or you later receive a notice for a court date, you must attend and explain the situation in person. If you do not, a warrant may be issued. Do not assume that the case against you has been dismissed.

4. **If a warrant has already been issued**, call the Seattle Municipal Court at 206-684-5600 and ask to get placed on the Bench Warrant Add-On Calendar. In most cases they will either:
  - a. Quash (cancel) the warrant and give you a new court date; or
  - b. Give you a court date for a special hearing where a judge will decide whether to quash your warrant.

Regardless, you must appear at the next court date given to you, or the warrant will stay in effect.

5. Because of court rules and potential conflicts of interest, the City prosecutor cannot discuss the case with you. While we understand that this may cause you some inconvenience and frustration, we are bound by court rules designed to protect you from discussing your case. We appreciate your patience. Any questions you have should be referred to your attorney.

Thank you.